function as a corrective lens in conjunction with natural lens **102**. At essentially the same moment in time, tubular outlet **72** is removed through cornea **96** while the implanting surgeon verifies the positioning and orientation of implant **18** prior to closing puncture incision **108**.

Those skilled in the art Will understand that the preceding exemplary embodiments of the present invention provide the foundation for numerous alternatives and modifications thereto. These other modifications are also within the scope of the present invention. Thus, by way of example, but not of limitation, the shape transformable implants of the present invention may be configured to function as cosmetic implants for reconstructive or augmentation purposes. Such implants would include artificial chins, cheekbones, noses, ears and other body parts including breasts and penile implants. Similarly, alternative ejector apparatus may be configured to function with such implants utilizing the principles and teachings of the present invention. Such alternative ejector apparatus would be configured to accommodate the overall volume and minimum distorted dimensions achievable with the gelatinous implants. In this manner, a wide variety of implants may be surgically inserted and positioned through minimal, relatively atraumatic surgical incisions. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to that precisely as shown and described in the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for performing lens replacement in an eye, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a shape-transformable optical lens capable of substantial recoverable deformation in all dimensions and formed of an optically transparent material having a tensile strength of less than about 70 MPa, an elastic modulus of less than 3,000 MPa, an elongation at break of greater than 100%, and a Durometer Shore A hardness of less than about 100;

loading said shape-transformable lens into a lens ejector having a small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet configured to receive said shape-transformable optical lens in sliding sealing engagement;

inserting said small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet into the eye;

positioning said small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet at a target site within the eye; and

ejecting said shape-transformable optical lens through said small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet at the target site within the eye.

2. The method of claim **1** further comprising after said ejecting step the stop of:

positioning said shape-transformable optical lens at the target site within the eye.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein said inserting step further comprises the additional step of:

surgically forming an incision in the eye; and

inserting said small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet through said incision into the eye.

4. The method of claim **3** wherein said surgically forming step comprises the step of:

surgically forming an incision of less than about 4.5 mm in length in the eye.

5. The method of claim **4** wherein said providing step comprises the step of:

providing a shape-transformable optical lens capable of substantial recoverable deformation in all dimensions and having an overall diameter in the range of about 5 mm to 13 mm.

6. The method of claim **5** wherein said loading step comprises the step of:

loading said shape-transformable optical lens into a lens ejector having an elongate, generally tubular outlet configured to receive said shape-transformable optical lens in sliding sealing engagement and having a length of less than about 100 mm and an internal diameter of about 3 mm.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein said optical lens is loaded into said ejector through the additional steps of:

mounting a converging loading funnel dimensioned to receive said optical lens onto said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet;

placing said optical lens into said converging loading funnel;

drawing said optical lens through said converging loading funnel and into said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet; and

removing said converging loading funnel from said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet.

8. The method of claim **7** wherein said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet containing said optical lens is detachable from said ejector.

9. The method of claim **7** wherein said converging loading funnel is provided with a generally elliptical cross-sectional area defining an alignment orientation plane for maintaining a specific orientation of said optical lens within said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet.

10. The method of claim **1** wherein said optical lens is loaded into said ejector through the additional steps of:

providing a converging loading funnel within said ejector upstream of and in communication with said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet; and

placing said optical lens into said converging loading funnel prior to ejecting said optical lens through said outlet of said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet.

11. The method of claim **1** further comprising the additional step of lubricating said optical lens prior to ejecting said optical lens through said outlet of said small diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet.

12. The method of claim **11** wherein said optical lens is lubricated through the additional step of coating said optical lens with a viscoelastic material.

13. The method of claim **1** wherein said optical lens is substantially deformed when received in sad small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet.

14. A method of implanting an optical lens into an eye, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a shape-transformable optical lens capable of substantial recoverable deformation in all dimensions and formed of an optically transparent material having a tensile strength of less than about 70 MPa, an elastic modulus of less than 3,000 MPa, an elongation at break of greater than 100%, and a Durameter Shore A hardness of less than about 100;

loading said shape-transformable optical lens into a lens ejector having a small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet configured to receive said shape-transformable optical lens in sliding sealing engagement;

inserting said small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet into the eye;

positioning said small-diameter, elongate, generally tubular outlet at a target site within the eye; and